

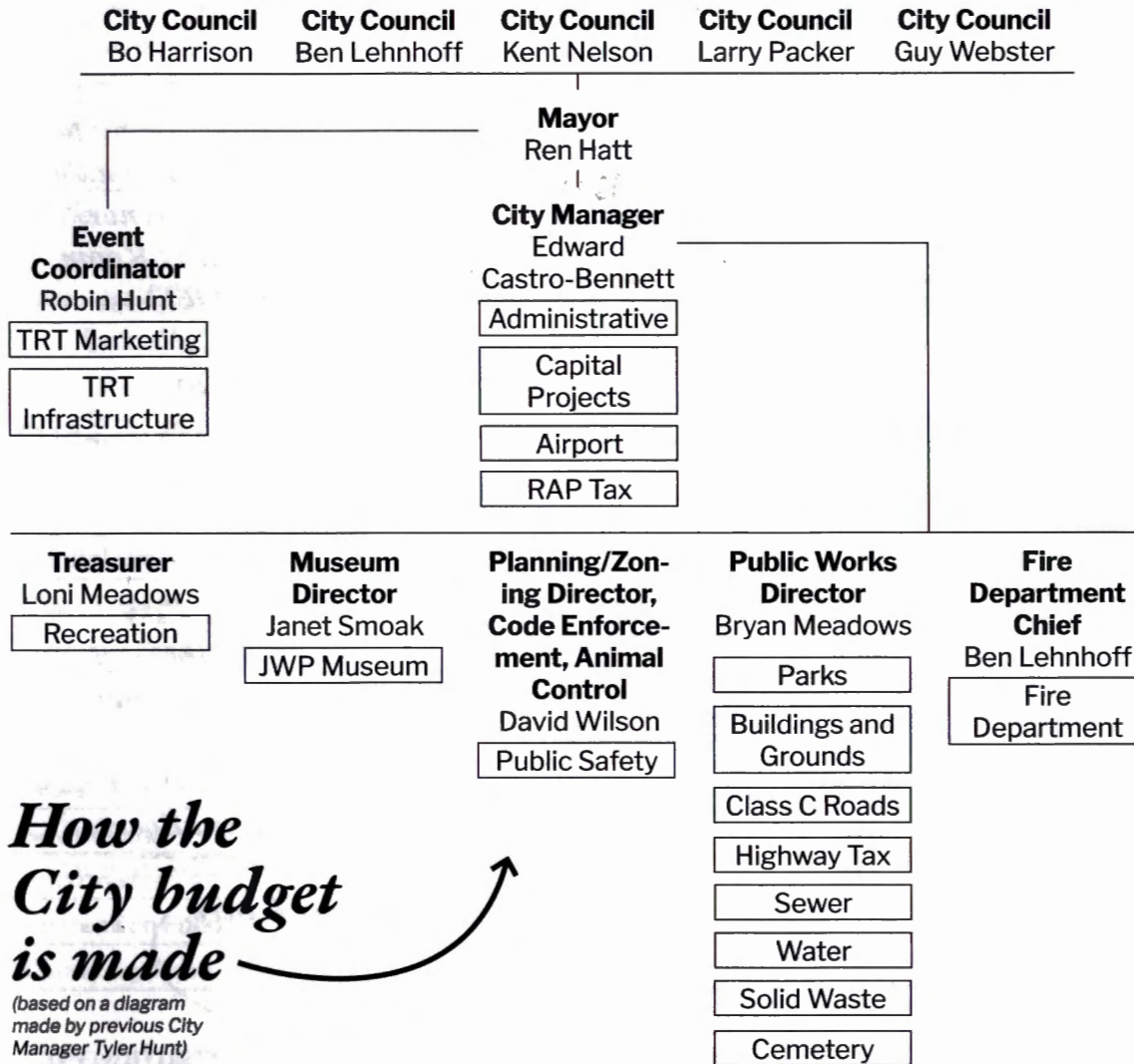


The Green River Observer

Vol. 2, No. 6

"The Other Local Newspaper: News, Notes, and Nothings from the Middle of Everywhere"

July 12, 2025



How the City budget is made

(based on a diagram made by previous City Manager Tyler Hunt)

A look inside: Council approves annual City budget

by KENNY FALLON JR.

At their June 10th meeting, City Council approved the 2026 City Budget (the fiscal/budget year for the City goes from July 1st through June 30th of the following year, so fiscal year 2026 started this past July 1st for the City). Pri-

or to this meeting, they had held a public hearing for the preliminary budget, and a public hearing was held earlier in the June 10th meeting. At the last public hearing there was only one member of the public who commented: Gayna Salinas encouraged the City Council and citizens to review the budget line

by line. I took that suggestion to heart and have compiled a public spreadsheet of every line in the budget, which you can view here: <https://tinyurl.com/GR-City-Budget>. If you notice any mistakes or have any questions, please let me know! Here are some highlights:

CONT AT "BUDGET"

Coming up: meet the candidates

Even if you know 'em, you might not know their plans!

On July 29 at 7 PM at GR High School, there will be an open meeting to hear from the candidates running for Mayor and City Council. Ballots will be sent out on July 22 and are due back by August 12, but this "Meet the Candidates" event will provide an opportunity to hear from all candidates at once on what they'd like to do if elected. Bring questions and civic spirit! 🗳️

Coming up: community meal, party

Celebrate youth sports, new field signage

On July 28 at 6 PM at OK Anderson Park pavilion, there will be a community dinner, youth sports awards ceremony, and presentation of new Parents Empowered painted signage around City parks and the schools. This outreach effort is lead by the Green River Prevention Coalition, a newer group which seeks to empower youth and community members of Green River to reach their full potential. 🍴

Small Bite

🌊 The Green River running through town was at 5,620 CFS on June 1st and was at 2,280 CFS by July 1st, spiking to 6,870 CFS on June 21st. 🌊

BUDGET (CON'T)

General Fund

REVENUE	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Taxes	\$1,300,088	\$1,353,360	\$787,178	\$1,405,000
Licenses and Permits	\$7,240	\$5,828	\$3,008	\$5,850
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$141,657	\$135,123	\$142,234	\$150,900
Charges for Services	\$7,357	\$3,479	\$2,480	\$4,400
Fines and Forfeitures	\$0	\$2,988	\$570	\$4,000
Interest Earnings	\$122,098	\$199,188	\$148,999	\$150,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$46,305	\$40,337	\$51,405	\$18,360
Contributions and Transfers	\$3,033,307	\$483,337	\$565,421	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$4,658,052	\$2,223,640	\$1,701,295	\$2,038,510

EXPENDITURES	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Administrative	\$ (800,248)	\$ (760,943)	\$ (700,697)	\$ (846,090)
Buildings and Grounds	\$ (35,715)	\$ (76,525)	\$ (73,859)	\$ (90,450)
Information Center	\$ (33,501)	\$ (32,926)	\$ (325)	\$0
Public Safety	\$ (124,756)	\$ (114,421)	\$ (183,420)	\$ (152,435)
Airport	\$ (3,165,475)	\$ (202,299)	\$ (44,645)	\$ (67,000)
Curb and Gutter	\$ (3,730)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Parks	\$ (57,575)	\$ (55,520)	\$ (47,067)	\$ (61,500)
Transfers	\$ (162,300)	\$ (450,820)	\$0	\$ (706,035)
TOTAL	\$ (4,383,300)	\$ (1,693,454)	\$ (1,050,013)	\$ (2,038,510)

NET CHANGE IN POSITION	\$274,752	\$530,186	\$651,282	\$0
------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----

These consist of:

- **Property Tax**
- **Resort Community Sales Tax** (this usually accounts for almost half of all City tax revenue)
- **Transient Room Tax (TRT)**
- **State Collected Sales Tax**

While GR City generates the vast majority of Emery County's TRT revenue, only a small portion is allocated back to GR City, as shown here.

Transient Room Tax (TRT) Infrastructure Fund

REVENUE	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Taxes	\$ 46,627	\$ 44,481	\$ 20,597	\$ 30,000
Charges for Services	\$ 24,630	\$ 29,361	\$ 39,929	\$ 40,000
Contributions and Transfers	\$ 24,589	\$ 48,144	\$ 28,142	\$ 30,000
TOTAL	\$ 95,846	\$ 121,986	\$ 88,668	\$ 100,000

EXPENDITURES	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Administrative and Events	\$ (56,944)	\$ (79,711)	\$ (62,041)	\$ (100,000)
Capital Outlay - Equipment	\$ (16,729)	\$ (6,500)	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$ (73,673)	\$ (86,211)	\$ (62,041)	\$ (100,000)

NET CHANGE IN POSITION	\$ 22,173	\$ 35,775	\$ 26,627	\$0
------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----

This includes funds for the Fourth of July and Christmas activities.

Museum Fund

REVENUE	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Operating Income	\$ 154,153	\$ 117,010	\$ 86,145	\$ 115,400
Donations and Grants	\$ 29,649	\$ 30,708	\$ 60,426	\$ 96,000
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 150,185	\$ 199,320	\$ 0	\$ 241,650
TOTAL	\$ 333,802	\$ 347,038	\$ 146,571	\$ 453,050

EXPENDITURES	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Operating Expenses	\$ (354,418)	\$ (380,296)	\$ (385,291)	\$ (449,050)
Exhibits	\$ (1,069)	\$ (1,205)	\$ (3,842)	\$ (4,000)
TOTAL	\$ (355,487)	\$ (381,501)	\$ (389,133)	\$ (453,050)

NET CHANGE IN POSITION	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
	\$ (21,685)	\$ (34,463)	\$ (242,562)	\$ 0

Municipal accounting is tricky: money is split up between 13 funds and different government and bank accounts, so it's a little difficult to get a simple overall picture of a city's finances. Every fund has to balance, so the City covers any "losses".

Case in point: even though the Museum Fund didn't have a General Fund Transfer in 2025, the City still made up the negative "change in position" of \$242,562.

Other City Funds at a Glance

REVENUE	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 66,059	\$ 370,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Class C Road Fund	\$ 95,809	\$ 153,789	\$ 165,563	\$ 170,000
Highway Tax Fund	\$ 160,499	\$ 155,802	\$ 80,124	\$ 128,000
RAP Tax Fund	\$ 42,489	\$ 41,108	\$ 20,893	\$ 30,000
Local Building Authority	\$ 13,631	\$ 13,450	\$ 0	\$ 14,500
Water Fund	\$ 511,115	\$ 641,153	\$ 2,607,846	\$ 614,500
Sewer Fund	\$ 306,425	\$ 458,515	\$ 5,328,767	\$ 411,500
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 330,092	\$ 334,482	\$ 278,846	\$ 307,700
Recreation Fund	\$ 11,245	\$ 13,859	\$ 15,537	\$ 18,550
Cemetery Fund	\$ 10,495	\$ 8,586	\$ 7,417	\$ 8,000

EXPENDITURES	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Capital Projects Fund	\$ (447,651)	\$ (344,313)	\$ (106,154)	\$ 0
Class C Road Fund	\$ (182,896)	\$ (82,963)	\$ (28,969)	\$ (170,000)
Highway Tax Fund	\$ (230,956)	\$ (125,344)	\$ (111,122)	\$ (128,000)
RAP Tax Fund	\$ (28,567)	\$ (63,994)	\$ (20,193)	\$ (30,000)
Local Building Authority	\$ (13,631)	\$ (13,356)	\$ (14,081)	\$ (14,500)
Water Fund	\$ (462,133)	\$ (499,726)	\$ (452,331)	\$ (614,500)
Sewer Fund	\$ (355,086)	\$ (297,094)	\$ (117,791)	\$ (411,500)
Solid Waste Fund	\$ (322,910)	\$ (316,528)	\$ (300,507)	\$ (307,700)
Recreation Fund	\$ (8,875)	\$ (13,374)	\$ (7,601)	\$ (18,550)
Cemetery Fund	\$ (4,196)	\$ (1,645)	\$ (1,519)	\$ (8,000)

While the Water and Sewer Funds had dramatic increases in revenue in 2025, these are largely due to project-specific grants.

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
See more detail and analysis at The Green River Observer's City Budget Comparison spreadsheet: <https://tinyurl.com/GR-City-Budget>

Classifieds

We don't endorse supporters' views. Selling ads to a variety of groups offsets the expense of sending this to locals for free.

"Oh yeah, I read about that in the Observer"

Your Ad Could be Here...

...and in EVERY PO BOX IN TOWN!

contact TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com for details about rates, reach, and more!

Are you passionate about public safety, emergency services, and your community?

Join the Emery County Fire Protection Special Service District!

The county is seeking a dedicated and civic-minded individual to serve as **Member-at-Large**. Apply online at EmeryCounty.Com or to the Clerk/Auditor's office by 5 PM on July 18th 2025.

3"x5" Stickers For Sale (\$3)!

The Green River Observer 

Email TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com

FREE SUMMER LUNCH AND BREAKFAST
(for kids ages 18 and younger)

Available for pickup Mondays-Fridays (Friday pickups include food for Saturday-Sunday)

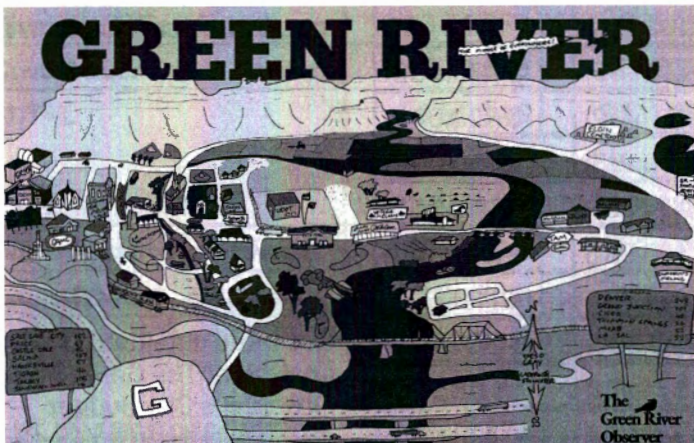
from June 2nd - July 31st at:

Sheriff Office (80 Farrer St) from 11-11:15 AM

Long Street Ball Field from 11:20-11:30 AM

JWP Museum from 11:40-11:50 AM

Cartoon Map of GR Posters For Sale (\$8)!



Email TheGreenRiverObserver@Gmail.com

SUWA

SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Protecting the redrock wilderness since 1983

suwa.org #protectwildutah

The Green River Observer is published monthly online (at TheGreenRiverObserver.Substack.com) and in print by Saleratus Press LLC to cover the news, history, and culture of Green River, Utah, the "Middle of Everywhere".



To send tips, feedback, buy ads, submit events, or just say hey email us at TheGreenRiverObserver@gmail.com, call us at (435) 261-3084, or send physical mail to:

Saleratus Press
PO Box 353
Green River, Utah
84525

Editor in Chief:
Kenny Fallon Jr.

Columnists:
Tadd Mecham
Tony Herrera

Contributor:
Paul Trap

Printed by:
Carbon Print and
Design (Price, Utah)

Thank you to our media partner and supporter
MOAB SUN NEWS

Thank you to
STEVE SYKES
EDWARD CASTRO BENNETT
JULIE STEUER
MICHAEL LEAF
CHRIS SHEETER
for your generous financial support!

Local groups sue developer of luxury resort

by LIVING RIVERS and KANE CREEK DEVELOPMENT WATCH (MOAB)


Living Rivers and Kane Creek Development Watch (hereafter referenced together as "Watch") have filed a lawsuit in the Seventh Judicial District Court of Grand County challenging the validity of the water rights claimed by Kane Creek luxury resort developers ("Developers"). Watch's lawsuit states that the Developers' groundwater and Colorado River water rights were not put to beneficial use for more than seven years, which, under Utah law, means the water rights are subject to forfeiture. Development, even the preliminary bulldozing, cannot legally continue without a water supply.

Local opposition to the proposed Kane Creek luxury resort has been strong and consistent, with residents voicing concerns at standing-room only public hearings. "This project does nothing to address Grand County's affordable housing crisis—in fact, it makes it worse," said Laura Long, a Watch activist and frequent speaker

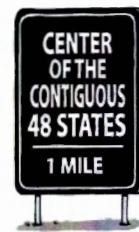
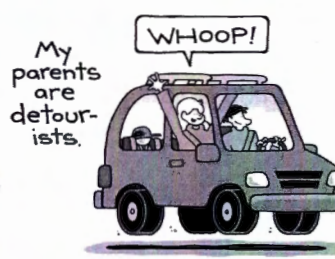
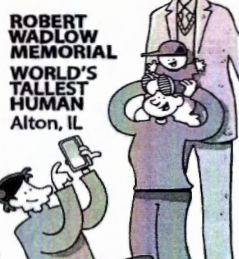
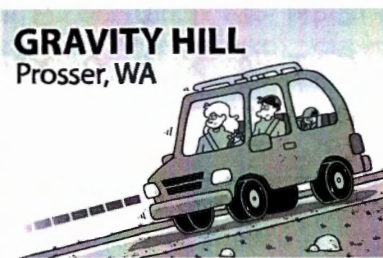
at the hearings. "It's an exclusive enclave for wealthy investors that would drive up land prices, strain local infrastructure, cost local taxpayers money, and destroy the natural character of the canyon and the Colorado River floodplain." The resort proposal (which has changed several times) calls for over 550 high-end housing units, 70,000 square feet of commercial space, and 100 overnight accommodations in the heart of the Kings Bottom area.

Dave Closser, a Moab resident, has been monitoring the resort's progress from the beginning. He is concerned about safety and delays on Kane Creek Boulevard, a rough and narrow gateway access road for public recreation traversed daily by tourists and Grand County residents alike. "The resort construction and massive infrastructure development will make accessing all of Kane Creek Boulevard, and nearby recreation areas, difficult and dangerous for years. There will be long delays on the narrow road along the River, and there are

no go-arounds. Local businesses could be forced to cancel or reduce their operations which will trickle down to their bottom line and the pockets of their employees. And who is going to pay for the road expansion? It's going to cost millions of dollars, and the federal government has already declined to fund it." Several local tourism business owners submitted statements in support of the lawsuit, noting that the resort and its water use could damage their businesses.

Kane Creek Development Watch is a grassroots citizen's group based in Moab. It sprung up in 2024, in response to this resort proposal. Its strong network of donors and activists have been pushing back against the well-funded and politically-connected Developers, including by funding this lawsuit (which is funded entirely by hundreds of local residents and visitors) and collecting 17,850 signatures from residents and others opposed to this massive resort. Watch is dually focused on (a) mitigating impacts from the development on the unique area it would decimate, the surrounding ecosystem, and adjoining public lands, as well as (b) preventing additional strain on the water supply of the Colorado River and its tributaries, which are over-appropriated. 

Thatababy by PAUL TRAP (MOAB)



Film Review

by TADD MECHAM

Bring Her Back

★★★★★ (out of five stars)

Rating: R: for strong disturbing bloody violent content, some grisly images, graphic nudity, underage drinking, and language

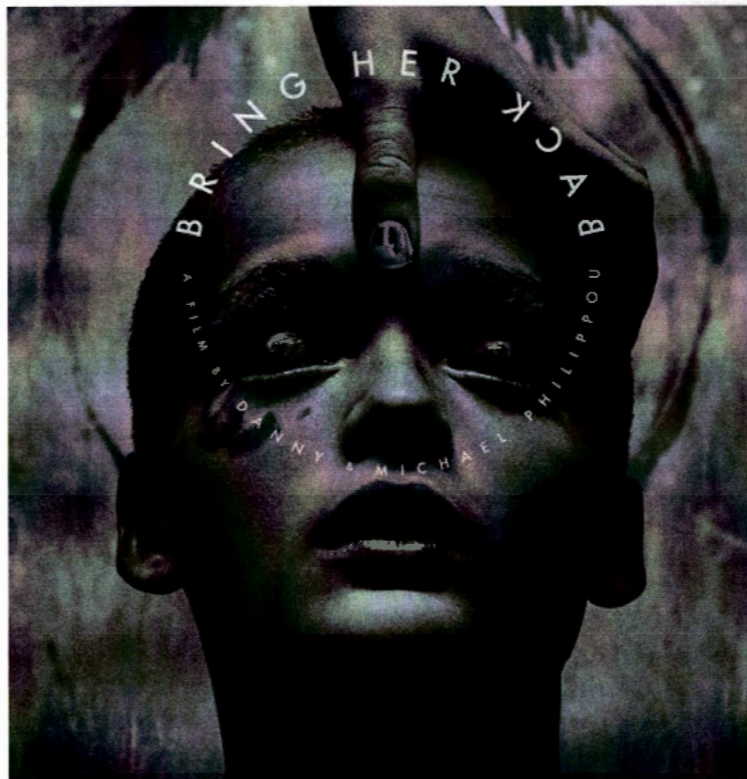
Run time: 118 minutes

Directors: Danny and Michael Philippou

Released: 2025

I always go into a horror film wanting it to live up to the trailer, but I know that it probably won't. Even the best horror movies have little things here or there that are out of place or don't fully work.

Not so with *Bring Her Back*. I can confidently say that this fulfilled all expectations and then some. This is emotionally poignant, very creepy, and often completely gruesome. It is full of incredible effects work and gorgeous direction. So many shots in this are beautiful, even if they are hard to



watch, and I was impressed with the attention to detail throughout.

Bring Her Back follows newly orphaned siblings Adam (Billy Barratt) and Piper (Sora Wong) entering their new foster home. Their kooky new foster mother, Laura (Sally Hawkins),

and mute foster brother Ollie (Jonah Wren Phillips) color their new home with oddball energy. But Laura's strange behavior slowly builds into something more dangerous than any of them could have ever imagined. This checked every box for me. The pacing is

Arts &

exact and each small reveal, spooky set-piece or terrifying occurrence makes way for something even more skin crawling and eerie. The narrative is unforgiving and pretty vicious, and I soon realized that no character was safe. That being said, it also carries a surprising amount of emotional heft and I found it as devastating as it was terrifying.

The performances from the roster of child actors are great. Barratt and Wong are such a sympathetic brother and sister pair and have some serious acting chops. And Wren Phillips portrays the scariest child in the last decade of horror.

Obviously the stand-out here is Sally Hawkins. She is a chameleon and one of the world's biggest acting underdogs. This film only serves to reinforce her incredible body of work. She is so scary and sad and weird in this. I couldn't get enough. This is horror perfection. 🍷

Word Search

Can you find all the words from this edition hidden below?

candidate	empower	fund
Hawkins	monkey	prevention
Sego	Sulphur	taxes

H	D	N	B	B	W	Z	F	O	Q	S	R	X	I	S
Y	A	P	O	J	C	J	U	J	L	E	E	Q	I	E
R	M	W	P	I	E	I	M	I	T	V	W	B	E	G
E	I	K	K	S	T	C	T	A	X	S	O	X	V	O
T	S	J	B	I	M	N	D	L	E	B	P	Y	U	D
X	Q	H	E	O	N	I	E	X	L	M	M	O	L	G
G	E	A	N	Y	D	S	A	V	I	L	E	D	Z	B
K	S	K	D	N	L	T	Z	Y	E	R	E	A	S	M
F	E	P	A	K	G	T	B	W	Y	R	L	R	J	T
Y	A	C	G	S	U	L	P	H	U	R	P	X	M	B
Y	F	T	V	S	K	K	O	I	F	V	R	A	W	L
P	A	E	D	N	U	F	K	Q	P	P	E	U	X	Z
C	P	P	H	T	M	P	E	S	P	G	L	D	T	Z

Sudoku

Each row, column and square needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

	8	7		6				
1	6			8		4		2
3	5		7	1	2		8	6
	9						5	
4	2		5	7		6		8
5				9			2	4
8		2		3			6	
6	7	5						
9	3	1	6					

Culture

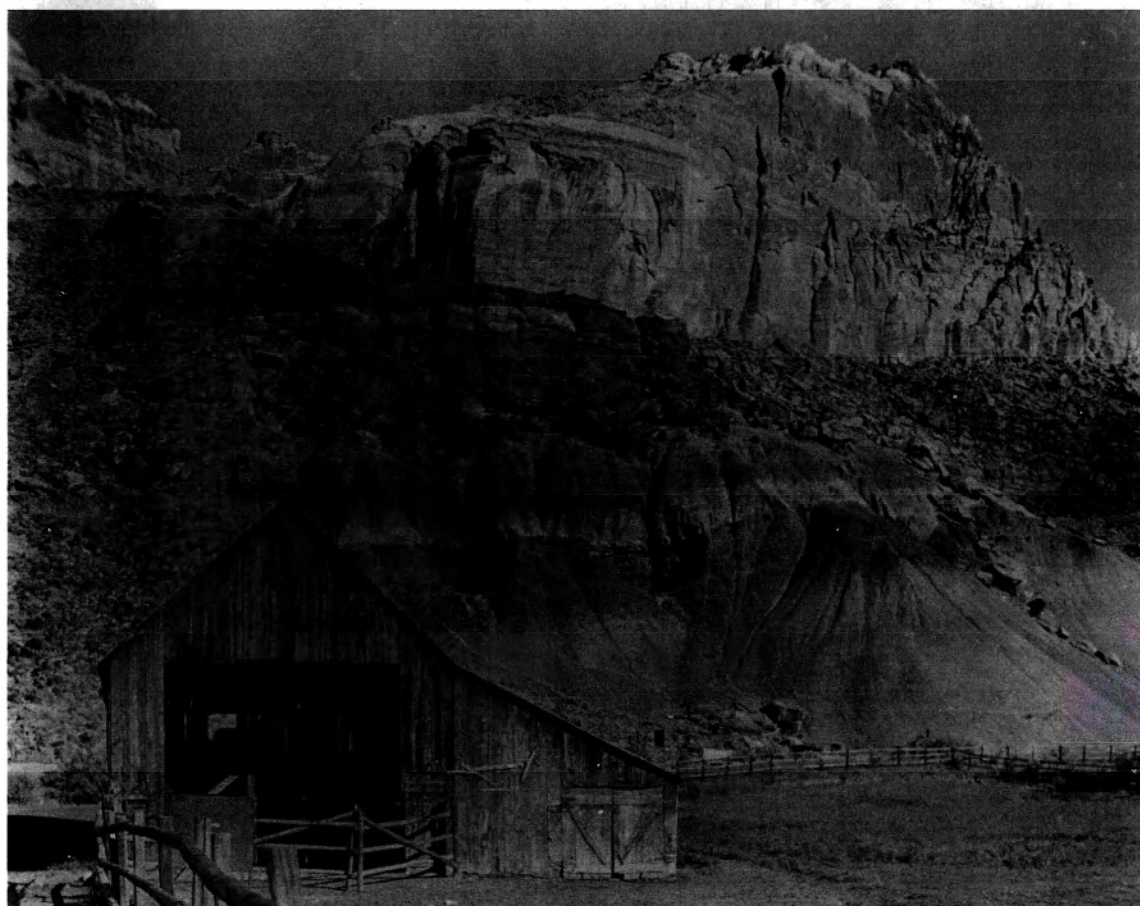
Travelin' with Tony Capitol Reef National Park: July 4-6, 2025

by TONY HERRERA

Making a trip to a national park feels like the best way to spend the Fourth of July weekend. I feel our National Parks are one of our greatest ideas as a nation.

Ansel Adams famously said, "No matter how sophisticated you may be, a large granite mountain cannot be denied - it speaks in silence to the very core of your being". I have similar feelings regarding sheer sandstone cliffs. Upon arriving at our campsite, I was delighted to see the rugged sandstone cliffs to both our North and South. I immediately knew I had to take a photo featuring this. After a brief walk around the area, I decided to take a photo of the historic Pendleton Barn in front of the sandstone cliffs.

The next day, we woke up early to hike Sulphur Creek. Sulphur Creek is a six-mile hike through a slot canyon featuring several waterfalls. Hiking the creek requires frequent walking in ankle-deep water, occasional thigh-high water, and optional chest-high water. These conditions can vary based on weather, and I feel it should go without saying, but don't hike in a slot canyon when there is any possibility of rain in the forecast. This trail also has several spots where you have to use your hands to lower yourself



Pendleton Barn, Capitol Reef by Tony Herrera

down off of ledges. While you take in the beauty in front of you, be sure to occasionally turn around to see the beauty that is behind you. The most exhilarating part of this hike is at the final waterfall. Here you have the option of scooting around a ledge and lowering yourself down, or you can slide down the waterfall into the chest-high water below. Thanks to my traveling companions I was able to do the latter while they lowered my backpack down to me.

After our hike, we drove into the town of Torrey, where we ate at a food truck called Capitol Burger. I had the mac and cheese burger. It was a delicious blend of familiar ingredients. After our lunch, we ventured to Etta Place Cidery. We each sampled a flight




of different ciders. I went with a set of the sweeter ciders they had on offer. I particularly enjoyed their Grand Circle Semi-Dry cider and the Wassail Spiced Cider. I was going to purchase a bottle of each from their bottle shop, but they were out of the Wassail Spiced, so I got two of the Grand Circle. After purchasing our ciders, we returned to camp and spent the rest of the evening making s'mores and talking around the fire. The next day, we packed up our camp and hiked the Hickman Bridge Natural Bridge trail. While this hike was shorter both in distance and duration, I felt it was more strenuous than Sulphur Creek because of the elevation changes and the lack of shade. Seeing the Hickman Bridge was worth the hike, despite

how much I hate hiking uphill. Being one of the park's more popular trails, this hike was more populated than yesterday's, but luckily we went early enough that it still wasn't too busy.






One of my favorite things about this whole trip is that it never felt like it was too crowded. Capitol Reef is Utah's least-visited National Park. While I selfishly enjoy this, there are downsides to it as well. With budget cuts already happening to our parks, the less-visited parks will be the most affected. I encourage every American to visit our national parks, at least once in their lives, if not at least once a year. I will certainly be returning to Capitol Reef. There is a lot more I want to explore. 🍷






Your Candidates for the 2025 Green River Elections

Mayor:

-  (William) Travis Bacon
-  Ren Hatt
-  Michael Silliman

City Council (2 open seats)

-  Kenneth Silliman
-  Jay Madsen
-  Tamara Ekker
-  Scott Ryan
-  Conra Weber

-  Tonya Bigelow
-  Larry Packer
-  Ben Lehnhoff
-  Mary LeiAnn Chidester
-  Stephanie Crabtree

Would you like to submit an event to the calendar?

Community Calendar

Send us the event name, start and end time, and location.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 (JULY)	7 Storytime & 4H 3-5 PM / GRMC Flow Yoga 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	8 Boys Group 4-5 / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC City Council 7 PM / City Hall	9 Seniors Craft and Chat with Lexis 10 AM / GRMC Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	10 Pet Therapy with a dog & Lexis by appt / GRMC Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	11 Greek Festival 11 AM - 10 PM / Assumption Church in Price Sunnyside Rodeo 8 PM / Sunnyside Arena	12 Greek Festival 11 AM - 10 PM / Assumption Church in Price Sunnyside Rodeo 8 PM / Sunnyside Arena
13	14 Storytime & 4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Conserv. Dist. 5 PM / City Hall Flow Yoga 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	15 Kids Activities 1-2:30 / JWP Museum Girls Group 4-5 / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC Planning Com. 7 PM / City Hall	16 Volunteer Cleanup 7 AM / GRMC Seniors Craft and Chat with Lexis 10 AM / GRMC GR Food Bank 10-12 / 140 N Broadway Mayor Hatt's Office Hours 4-6 PM / City Hall Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park	17 Pet Therapy with a dog & Lexis by appt / GRMC Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	18 Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	19 Uranium Exhibit Phase II Opening 3-5 / Moab Museum
20	21 Storytime & 4H 3-5 PM / GR Library Flow Yoga 5:30 PM / GRMC Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	22 Kids Activities 1-2:30 / JWP Museum Boys Group 4-5 / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	23 Seniors Craft and Chat with Lexis 10 AM / GRMC Book Club 2 PM / GR Library Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park	24 Pioneer Day Ice Cream Social 6-8 PM / Moab Museum Pet Therapy with a dog & Lexis by appt / GRMC Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC	25 Dance Fitness 7 PM / GRMC	26 Service Saturday at Arches 8-9:30 AM / Arches National Park Glow Ball Golf Tournament in support of the GRHS Cheerleaders 9 PM / State Park
27	28 Storytime & 4H 3-5 PM / GR Firehouse Flow Yoga 5:30 PM / GRMC Community Night 6 PM / OK Anderson Park Pavilion Recovery Group 7 PM / GRMC	29 Kids Activities 1-2:30 / JWP Museum Girls Group 4-5 / GRMC Women's Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC *Meet the Candidates 7 PM / GRHS	30 Seniors Craft and Chat with Lexis 10 AM / GRMC Men's Golf 5 PM / State Park Emery County Fair Castle Dale	31 Pet Therapy with a dog & Lexis by appt / GRMC Disc Golf 5 PM / State Park *Clases de Inglés (ESL) 6:30-8 / GRMC Emery County Fair Castle Dale	1 (AUGUST) Emery County Fair Castle Dale	2 Emery County Fair Castle Dale